

is surrounded by high pickets, with bastions, forming a formidable defensive work against the Indians. Within the pickets all the dwellings and store-houses of the Company are enclosed.

The peculiar character of the soil renders Colville superior, for the purposes of cultivation, to any other spot on the upper waters of the Columbia.

The Kettle Falls are one of the greatest curiosities in this part of the country. They are formed by a tabular bed of quartz that crosses the river, and which, being harder than the rocks either above or below, has of course suffered less by abrasion, and thus formed a basin that renders the name appropriate. The total descent of the water is fifty feet, though the perpendicular fall in no place exceeds fifteen feet, which is, however, more than sufficient to prevent the passage of boats. At the foot of the falls the breadth of the river is two thousand three hundred and thirty feet, and the rate of the current is four miles an hour. This breadth is somewhat narrowed by an island, about midway of which is the first fall, which is almost entirely unbroken. Thence the river forces its way over a rocky bed until it reaches the main fall, where the water is thrown into every variety of shape and form, resembling the boiling of a kettle, from which the falls derive their name.

There is an Indian village on the banks of the great falls, inhabited by a few families, who are called "Quiarlpi," (Basket People,) from the circumstance of their using baskets to catch their fish, (salmon.) The season for the salmon-fishery had not yet arrived, so that our gentlemen did not see the manner of taking the fish; but as described to them, the fishing apparatus consists of a large wicker basket, supported by long poles inserted into it, and fixed in the rocks. The lower part, which is of the basket form, is joined to a broad frame, spreading above, against which the fish, in attempting to jump the falls, strike, and are thrown back into the basket. This basket, during the fishing season, is raised three times in the day, (twenty-four hours,) and at each haul, not unfrequently, contains three hundred fine fish. A division of these takes place at sunset each day, under the direction of one of the chief men of the village, and to each family is allotted the number it may be entitled to: not only the resident Indians, but all who may be there fishing, or by accident, are equally included in the distribution.

At the lower end of the falls are large masses of quartz rock, on which the Indians dry their fish. Few of the salmon, even if able to pass the lower fall, ever get by the upper one, being generally caught between the two falls; consequently, above this place no